

in that Office Action. Applicant wishes to thank the examiner for his thorough review of the specification and claims and for the suggestions provided for addressing various informalities. It is believed that these informalities have been addressed by the above amendment.

First, the drawings are objected to because the reference numeral "30" was used in Figures 7, 8 and 9 in a location where the numeral "101" should have been used. Several sheets of proposed drawing corrections with this change shown in red are submitted herewith.

Next, the disclosure was objected to due to the presence of several inconsistencies. Each of the matters identified in the Office Action has been addressed by the above amendment.

Claims 13-15 and 17-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph for being indefinite. By the above amendment, most of the issues identified by the examiner have been addressed. Applicant, however, traverses the following rejections.

First, claim 17 stands rejected due to the presence of the word "or." By using the word "or," Applicant claims a detector mounted on a slide shaft or a saw unit. The use of "or" terminology is expressly permitted by MPEP 2173.05(h). In the present case it is submitted that the scope of the claim is clear -- the detector is attached to one of two

structures. For this reason, it is submitted that claim 17 is in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Likewise, Applicant traverses the requirement that the further structural elements be recited in connection with the "locks" and "actuators" of the claims. These terms are clear and precise and would be understood by those skilled in the art. Applicant is not limiting the claims to certain types or arrangement of locks and actuators, but to any lock or actuator that performs the claimed functions. It is thus submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112 without adding additional structure to the locks or actuators.

Next, claim 20 recites a first sensor coupled to a lock. A sensor is not a lock, and thus it is not seen how a sensor coupled to a lock is in any way indefinite. "Coupled" is used in its ordinary sense and would be understood by a person reasonably skilled in the art. The location of the sensor is clear from the claim, and the function of a sensor, to sense, can be performed by different types of sensors. Therefore, it is not believed that further structural limitations are required in connection with this claim. The same argument also applies to the rejections of claims 21 and 22.

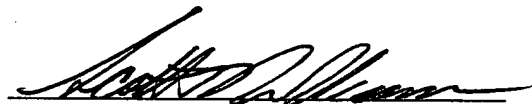
New claims 26-32 have been added by the above amendment

and were carefully drafted to comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. It is believed that these claims and the claims discussed above, are now in condition for examination and allowance.

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated December 21, 1999, has been addressed and it is believed that claims 1, 12-15, and 17-32 are in condition for allowance. Wherefore, reconsideration and allowance claims 1, 12-15 and 17-25 and examination and allowance of claims 26-32 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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